Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 22 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Friday 23 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Thursday 22 Dec 2022 at 03:50

Confidence: Medium at best with doubts over northern extent of cloud and band of rain on Thursday. Confidence growing for an unsettled period through the remainder of the forecast period, with a deepening low moving northeast across the northern Scotland, and turning colder later Christmas Day.

Headline for Thursday 22 Dec 2022: North largely dry and bright, south cloudier with a little rain.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 22 Dec 2022

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Fog	Sunny intervals	Fog	Cloudy	Mist
Precipitation probability					
40%	20%	<05%	<05%	20%	20%

Forecast for Thursday 22 Dec 2022

Weather: Patchy rain dying out and cloud breaking through the morning then a dry and bright afternoon with sunny spells. However cloud increasing across southern fells late afternoon and evening with a risk of patchy rain.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% becoming 60% in the morning, but falling to around 25% across southern fells in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Widespread cloud above 500 or 600m at first but occasional cloud above 600-800m by the afternoon, though periods above 450m developing across southern fells in the afternoon, with patches below,. Away from cloud, visibility good or very good but only a few kilometres in rain.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Thursday 22 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	21/24 W	15/18 SW	11/14 SW	8/10 W	7/9 W	4/6 SE	4/6 SE
600	17/22 W	14/18 SW	10/13 SW	6/8 SW	6/9 SW	4/6 S	4/5 SE
300	6/18 W	6/14 W	5/11 W	2/7 W	3/7 W	2/4 S	3/5 SE
Valley	5/16 W	5/13 SW	4/10 SW	2/6 W	2/5 N	2/3 NE	3/4 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-4	2/-3	2/-2	2/-2	1/-2	1/-1	1/-1
600	4/-1	4/-1	4/0	4/1	3/0	3/1	2/0
300	6/4	6/4	6/4	5/4	4/3	4/2	3/2
Valley	7/6	7/5	7/6	7/6	6/5	5/4	5/4
Freezing Level*	1200m	1100m	1200m	1100m	1000m	1000m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling cold on higher fells, especially through the morning.

Forecast for Friday 23 Dec 2022

Weather: A few spots of rain at first but generally dry overnight with some clear spells developing. Then a bright start but cloud increasing through the morning bringing outbreaks of rain to southwestern fells, preceded briefly by snow above about 800m. The rain becomes more persistent and occasionally heavy as it spreads to all parts through the afternoon, before clearing northeast through the evening.

Maximum wind: Easterly or southeasterly 10mph or less increasing 20-25mph by dawn, with gusts around 40mph over ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 75% at first but falling close to zero by early afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional cloud above about 750m at first but becoming periods or persistent above 450-600m, with patches below, from the southwest from late morning. Away from cloud visibility good or very good falling to a few kilometres in heavier rain, and a kilometre or less in any higher summit snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 2 or 3 Celsius at dawn rising to plus 7 or 8 Celsius by day
At 800m: Around plus 2 or 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Just above the highest summits and rising.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 21 December 2022 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:10 Full report: Fresh, soft snow and hail has fallen in the last 24 hours and settled above 750m, with most lying above 850m. It has been deposited on strong SW to WSW winds and so coverage varies from nothing on windswept areas to 1-3cm on north and east facing aspects. Some of this lies above very isolated patches of older, occasionally harder snow. Above 500m, there are isolated patches of old ice on paths which are, unless hidden under fresh snow, generally easy to avoid. These are situated on drainage lines and on some popular routes where last week's old snow had been compressed. The other main hazard today was the slippery nature of the rocks either because of the covering of soft snow or simply their wet, greasy nature. These underfoot conditions combined with the gusty winds meant that it was definitely essential to concentrate on careful foot placement especially when attempting steep and exposed terrain (such as the Helvellyn Edges). Despite the milder weather, the summit temperature around 11am was only marginally above freezing with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) well below at minus 9 degrees, so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility such as low cloud are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. Please do not rely on someone else to point the way; perhaps they could be wrong or you may not even find anyone else! Walking poles to aid stability on slippery paths could also be useful. With summit temperatures hovering around zero, walkers heading out for the higher fells on Thursday should be prepared for the saturated ground and soft snow to freeze creating different conditions to those experienced and described today. For this reason, walkers attempting steep and exposed routes above the snowline should consider carrying an ice axe and microspikes/crampons. Goggles are also useful to lessen the sting of windblown hail. Temperature: plus 0.4 C, Maximum wind speed 37.3 mph, Wind chill: minus 9.2 C, Average wind speed: 28.6 mph
Issued at: 03:50 on Thu 22 Dec 2022

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